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Letter to Editor

[Virtual Versus Light Microscopy for Teaching Histology]

Frances M. MacMillan

I was interested to read the article “Teaching Veterinary Histopathology: A Comparison of Microscopy and Digital Slides, Brown,”¹ in which it is claimed that there has been no previous direct comparison of the use of virtual microscopy and light microscopy in student attainment. This claim is not correct. My colleagues and I at the University of Bristol were instrumental in developing and setting up the virtual microscope and digital microscopy at the University of Bristol, the very system used in this study. In addition we have published several times on this matter at conferences (UK Veterinary Education Conference and Physiologic Society, UK)² and have also published a full paper in *Anatomic Sciences Education* detailing the system and evaluating its effectiveness.³ These publications have not been cited.

References

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- <jrn>2 MacMillan FM, Barnes SD, Hamilton JC, et al. The virtual microscope in histology teaching: evaluation of effectiveness and student preference. Proc Phys Soc. 2009;15:PC70.</jrn>
- <jrn>3 Gatumu MK, MacMillan FM, Langton PD, et al. Evaluation of usage of virtual microscopy for the study of histology in the medical, dental, and veterinary undergraduate programs of a UK University. Anat Sci Educ. 2014;7(5):389–98. [Medline:25317448](#)
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